

G-IV-C-064

Patrick Laffey House
Swanton
Private

ca.1876

The Patrick Laffey House is a 1½ story, three bay by one bay, gable-roofed log dwelling on a stone foundation. Its exterior is protected by whitewashed weatherboard siding and a one bay facade entrance porch. The interior, retaining most of its original fabric, is arranged around a center staircase.

Patrick Laffey emigrated from Ireland to the United States circa 1850, initially settling in Piedmont, West Virginia. In 1876 he bought this property because it is near the railroad line where he obtained a job.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Patrick Laffey House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Spring Lick Rd. , NW side, .4 mile SW of Spring Lick Run

CITY, TOWN

Swanton

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

G-IV-C-069

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Patrick Laffey House is a 1½ story, three bay by one bay, gable-roofed log dwelling on a stone foundation. Its exterior is protected by whitewashed weatherboard siding and a one bay facade entrance porch. The interior, retaining most of its original fabric, is arranged around a center staircase.

Located on the northwest side of the ridge on Backbone Mountain, between Spring Lick Run and Maple Lick Run, this building faces southwest toward the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad approximately 250 yards distant.

The facade of the building has a symmetrical three bay, center door arrangement with its second floor, center bay unfenestrated. 6/6 sash windows with plain board surrounds light the first floor level, while shorter 6/3 sash light the half story. the door has a single, large rectangular pane above a smaller recessed panel. Fluted Ionic pilasters, a molded dentil cornice, and a molded sill frame the window. The shed-roofed porch that shelters this doorway covers the space between the windows at either side of the door. Four square posts with curved brackets and pendants support the tarpaper-clad roof. Four concrete blocks placed below the posts serve as the foundation. Recently, furring strips and screening were added to enclose the porch.

The northeast endwall is pierced at the first and second floor levels by 6/6 sash windows set slightly east of the wall's midpoint. The southeast endwall is unfenestrated.

The rear elevation (NW wall) measures only two bays wide. At the first floor level a door occupies the north end and a 6/1 sash window occupies the west end. The only other opening on this wall is a 6/3 sash window located above the first floor window. It is reported that a one story, frame kitchen wing with a porch was previously connected to therear elevation on the north end. Scars on this area of the wall reveal that a wing of some kind has been removed.

The thickness of the walls indicates that this building is constructed of logs. However, due to the weatherboard siding (circular sawn and not beveled) and corner-boards that sheathe the exterior, the type of corner notching employed is uncertain. Exposed walls on the interior confirm its log construction and reveal hewn logs chinked with log wedges, mud and plaster. From the interior, the logs have a notch on their undersides where they meet at the corners. This is characteristic of V-notching, the most common type of corner joint used in log construction in the county. The sills are hewn and dovetailed to the first log. Dry-laid, flat stones surrounding a crawl space form the foundation.

The interior is a two room plan with an enclosed center staircase. On the first floor, the walls, originally papered, have been covered with plasterboard. Ceilings are narrow tongue and groove board, and the floors, also tongue and groove, alternate narrow and wide boards. Straight-sawn, plain flat boards surround the windows and doorways.

The staircase rises from the rear (NW) wall to the middle of the upper story. At the base, one step projects into the eastern room, then a four tread corner winder

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1876	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Patrick Alysus Laffey emigrated from County Galway, Ireland to the United States circa 1850, entering through Baltimore Harbor. Initially he lived in Piedmont West Virginia. In 1876 he bought this property at Spring Lick near the railroad tracks because he got a job as a track supervisor on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Laffey raised a family of eleven children in this house.¹

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹Interview with Jerome Laffey, 5 August 1981.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

August 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

(#7 - Description - continuation)

leads to a six tread straight run. The western wall that encloses the staircase is log, while the eastern wall is constructed of circular sawn, tongue and groove vertical plank. At the upper story landing, a built-in closet with a hand-planed board and batten door occupies the southeast wall. The eastern side of the second floor is a single room. A vertical plank partition wall divides the western side into two rooms of equal size. The log walls on the second floor are exposed, but reveal traces of whitewash covered with wallpaper.

The roof is constructed of circular sawn rafters with a ridgeboard. Horizontally set boards, with wide spaces between them, cover the rafters. A final layer of corrugated metal sheathes the exterior. A stovepipe projects through the ridgeline at each endwall.

A frame, gable-roofed outbuilding located approximately twenty yard southwest of the house is thought to have been a springhouse. The remains of a stone cave (root cellar) can be seen a few yards from the rear of the house. The present owner reports that a barn, a corn crib, and a "buggy house" formerly stood on the property.

G-IV-C-064
PATRICK LAFFEY HOUSE

Chain of Title

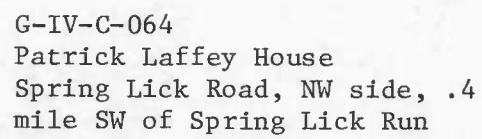
Garrett County Land Records:

6 December 1951 liber 171, folio 367
grantees; Jerome D. Laffey, Cyril J. Laffey, Vincent P. Laffey,
of Allegany County
grantor: William J. Laffey, widower, of Mineral County, WVA
consideration: \$10.00
acreage: 100 more or less, excepting 20 acres
notes: twenty acres formerly sold to Ray Durst by the
party of the first part

20 July 1944 liber 133, folio 494
grantee: William J. Laffey, of Mineral County, WVA
grantors: John C. Rhodes and Goldie E. Rhodes, of Garrett County
consideration: \$10.00 and other consideration
acreage: 100 more or less

17 July 1944 liber 133, folio 494
grantee: John C. Rhodes, of Garrett County
grantor: Jesse J. Ashby, Jr., Late Treasurer of Garrett County
acreage: 100 more or less
notes: Jesse J. Ashby, 31 December 1943, did sell at
public auction this land to satisfy and pay
the State and County taxes due in arrear
thereon for the years 1941 and 1942 as charged
upon the Assessment Books of Garrett County in
the name of Patrick Laffey, at and for the sum
of \$70.23 (No. 1335, Miscellaneous Docket)

2 November 1876 liber 2, folio 666
grantee: Patrick Laffey, of Garrett County
grantors: Louis Clegle and Louisa Clegle, of Garrett County
consideration: \$500.00
acreage: 100 more or less
notes: conveyed to Louis Clegle by Joseph R. Anderson
and wife, 31 December 1875





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Patrick Laffey House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/5/81

Rear: NW & SW elevations



G-IV-C-064

Patrick Laffey House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/5/81

Facade: SE & NE elevations